

What is claimed is:

1. An image reproduction system including a reproduction unit that reproduces image contents received from the outside and displays the image contents together with information relevant to the image contents, said reproduction
5 unit including:

an image reproduction counter that counts the time of reproduction of said image contents, and

a means for synchronizing the relevant information with image contents in synchronization with a count value of
10 said image reproduction counter corresponding to the synchronization timing designated by synchronism information,

said synchronism information designating relevant information to be displayed and display timing.
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2. An image reproduction system according to claim 1, wherein said reproduction unit includes reproduction application software for reproducing and displaying said image contents and said relevant information, said image
5 reproduction counter being provided in said reproduction application software.

3. A image reproduction system according to claim 2, wherein said reproduction application software includes a script in which at least said synchronism information is

written so that said reproduction application software will
5 control the display of said relevant information in
accordance with said synchronism information.

4. An image reproduction system according to claim 3, said
reproduction unit further including:

a synchronization data storage means for storing said
relevant information, and

5 a synchronization processing means for executing
synchronous display of relevant information at a
synchronization time specified by said synchronism
information;

wherein, when executing a reproduction application program,
10 said reproduction application software reads synchronism
information from a script in advance; begins both counting
of said image reproduction counter and display of image data
when starting reproduction of said image contents; and
reports a data name corresponding to said synchronization
15 time to said synchronization processing means when the count
value reaches a value that corresponds to a synchronization
time designated by said synchronism information; so that said
synchronization processing means will execute a
synchronization process of relevant information that
20 corresponds to the reported data name.

5. An image reproduction system according to claim 3,

wherein modification of the content of said relevant information or said synchronization time is realized by modifying said script.

6. An image reproduction system according to claim 2, wherein said reproduction unit including:

synchronization data acquisition means for acquiring said synchronism information and said relevant information
5 by way of the Internet;

synchronization data storage means for storing said relevant information;

image acquisition means for acquiring image data; and
synchronization processing means for executing

10 synchronous display processing upon receiving the data name of relevant information to be displayed;

wherein said reproduction application software receives synchronism information from said synchronization data acquisition means as well as image data, and, in addition to
15 reproduction of the image data, begins count of said image reproduction counter simultaneously with the start of reproduction of the image data, and when the count value reaches a value that corresponds to a synchronization time designated by said synchronism information, reports the data
20 name to be displayed at that synchronization time to said synchronization processing means.

7. An image reproduction system including a reproduction unit that reproduces image contents received from the outside and displays the image contents together with information relevant to the image contents, said reproduction unit
5 including:

means for extracting a time stamp that indicates time information from said image content; and

a means for synchronizing the relevant information with image contents in synchronization with said time stamp
10 corresponding to the synchronization timing designated by synchronism information,
said synchronism information designating relevant information to be displayed and display timing.

8. An image reproduction system according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction unit includes reproduction application software for reproducing and displaying said image contents and said relevant information, said
5 reproduction application software including a script in which at least said synchronism information is written so that said reproduction application software will control the display of said relevant information in accordance with said synchronism information.

9. An image reproduction system according to claim 8, said reproduction unit further comprising:

synchronization data storage means for storing said relevant information,

5 image acquisition means for acquiring image data; and
synchronization processing means for effecting
synchronous display processing of relevant information at a
synchronization time designated by said synchronism
information;

10 wherein, when executing a reproduction application program,
said reproduction application software reads synchronism
information from said script in advance, begins both the
display of image data and the extraction of time stamps by
controlling said time stamp acquisition means upon starting
15 reproduction; and, when the time stamp value reaches a value
that corresponds to a synchronization time designated by the
synchronism information, reports a data name designated for
the synchronization time to said synchronization processing
means, so that said synchronization processing means will
20 execute synchronous display processing of the relevant
information that corresponds to the reported data name.

10. An image reproduction system according to claim 8,
wherein modification of the content of said relevant
information or said synchronization timing is conducted by
modifying said script.

11. An image reproduction system according to claim 9, said

reproduction unit further comprising synchronization data acquisition means for acquiring said synchronism information and said relevant information by way of the Internet.

12. A data synchronization method of an image reproduction system including a reproduction unit that reproduces image contents received from the outside and displays the image contents together with information relevant to said image contents, said data synchronization method including steps
5 of:

counting the time of reproduction of said image contents, and

displaying the relevant information synchronously
10 with image contents in synchronization with a count value corresponding to the synchronization timing designated by synchronism information,
said synchronism information designating relevant information to be displayed and display timing.

13. A method according to claim 12, including a step of executing reproduction of said image contents by reproduction application software, and said reproduction application software performing steps of:

5 before starting reproduction, reading a script in advance in which are written the name of the data to be reproduced and the time of reproduction of said data

synchronous with corresponding image data;

starting reproduction and displaying image data;

10 counting the reproduction time;

determining whether or not a synchronization time
designated by said script has arrived;

upon arrival of a synchronization time, reading
relevant information for which the data name is written in
15 said script from the medium that stores that relevant
information, and displaying the synchronization data.

14. A data synchronization method according to claim 13,
including a step of modifying the contents of said relevant
information or said synchronization timing by modifying said
script.

15. A method according to claim 12, including a step of
executing reproduction of said image contents by reproduction
application software, and when executing reproduction, said
reproduction application software performing steps of:

5 obtaining, from the Internet, relevant information for
executing reproduction and display synchronously with image
data and also obtaining synchronization times for
synchronizing relevant information with image data, storing
both the synchronization times and data names of
10 synchronization data included in the relevant information as
synchronism information and storing the synchronization data

in a synchronization data storage medium, in advance;
starting reproduction and displaying image data;
counting the reproduction time;

15 determining whether or not a synchronization time
designated by said synchronism information has arrived;
when a designated synchronization time arrives,
reading synchronization data having the data name designated
corresponding to that synchronization time by said
20 synchronism information, from said synchronization data
storage medium; and
executing the reproduction and display of the data.

16. A data synchronization method of an image reproduction
system including a reproduction unit that reproduces image
contents received from the outside and displays the image
contents together with information relevant to said image
5 contents, said data synchronization method including steps
of:

extracting a time stamp indicating time information
from said image contents; and

displaying the relevant information synchronously
10 with image contents in synchronization with a time stamp
corresponding to the synchronization timing designated by
synchronism information,
said synchronism information designating relevant
information to be displayed and display timing.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein reproduction of said image content is executed by reproduction application software, said reproduction application software performing steps of:

5 before starting reproduction, reading a script in advance in which are written data names of relevant information to be executed and synchronization times at which display is to be carried out synchronously with corresponding image data;

10 starting reproduction and acquiring image content data;

extracting time stamps that are attached to the image data from the image data;

15 determining whether or not a time stamp matches a synchronization time designated by the script; and

when matching occurs, reading relevant information indicated by the data name written in the script from the medium in which the relevant information are stored, and processing the relevant information.

20 18. A data synchronization method according to claim 17, including a step of modifying said script to modify the content of said relevant information or said synchronization time.

19. A data synchronization method according to claim 16,

including a step of acquiring said synchronization times and
said relevant information by way of the Internet.